

Preserving and Restoring Our Coastal Heritage

1997 COASTAL AMERICA PROGRESS REPORT





COASTAL AMERICA

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES FOR A COASTAL AMERICA PARTNERSHIP FOR ACTION TO PROTECT, RESTORE AND MAINTAIN THE NATION'S COASTAL LIVING RESOURCES

Background: In response to the need to protect, preserve and restore our coastal heritage the Coastal America Partnership was established by a memorandum of understanding in 1992. This partnership for action is comprised of those Federal agencies with statutory responsibilities for coastal resources or whose operational activities affect the coastal environment. The partners are committed to a national effort which is guided by the concepts of ecosystem management and sustainable development in addressing primary coastal concerns, including habitat loss and degradation, nonpoint source pollution, and contaminated sediments. The Partnership focuses on regional activities that provide direct local and watershed action.

Purpose: The purpose of Coastal America is to: (1) protect, preserve, and restore the Nation's coastal ecosystems through existing Federal capabilities and authorities; (2) collaborate and cooperate in the stewardship of coastal living resources by working together and in partnership with other Federal programs, and by integrating Federal actions with state, local, tribal government, and non-governmental efforts; and (3) provide a framework for action that effectively focuses expertise and resources on jointly identified problems to produce demonstrable environmental and programmatic results that may serve as models for effective management of coastal living resources.

Statutory Basis: This interagency partnership operates within existing authorities and serves to link many Federal statutes that affect coastal living resources including but not limited to: Clean Water Act, Coastal Zone Management Act, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, Water Resources Development Acts, and National Environmental Policy Act. This Memorandum of Understanding does not amend or abridge any existing statutory authorities.

General Scope: Coastal America provides a forum for interagency collaborative action and a mechanism to facilitate regional action plans to protect, preserve, and restore the Nation's coastal living resources. Partnership efforts will continue to emphasize the shared coastal concerns of habitat loss and degradation, nonpoint source pollution, and contaminated sediments. Other priority issues will be addressed as appropriate. To facilitate program activities, the partners have established a Principals Group, a National Implementation Team (NIT), Regional Implementation Teams (RITs), and a Coastal America office. The partners ensure their organization's adequate regional and national representation and participation in these endeavors.

Responsibilities: The Principals establish overall policy for the Coastal America partnership. The Principals are senior policy representatives of the partnership agencies at the sub-cabinet level. The Chair of the Principals Group is designated by the Partnership. The group meets semiannually at a minimum.

The NIT members represent their respective agencies at national coordinating meetings, provide advice to the Coastal America office, represent Coastal America in various forums, participate on special workgroups as necessary and explore and facilitate coordination of national, inter-regional and other large-scale projects. The members are senior national-level managers from the appropriate operating elements of the partnership agencies. The NIT is chaired by the Director of the Coastal America office. The team meets monthly at a minimum.

The RITs are the primary operating units for Coastal America and provide forums for interagency consultation and action. The RIT members identify or develop regional strategies for joint action and facilitate mechanisms for their implementation. The members are senior regional-level managers from the appropriate operating elements of the partnership agencies. The RIT chairs are elected on a rotating basis by the respective teams. The teams meet quarterly at a minimum.

The Coastal America office serves to coordinate the activities related to the purpose of the partnership mission. The office provides the external point of contact for the partnership and facilitates the activities of the Principals, NIT and RITs. In addition, the office is a catalyst for development and facilitation of national projects and products, and education and training activities.

Funding: Each fiscal year, the partners identify those authorities under which multi-agency, intergovernmental projects can be funded. Projects meeting Coastal America criteria are afforded priority within each partner's program, as appropriate.

Reports and Documentation: On an annual basis the Coastal America office prepares and submits a progress report to the Principals which identifies management actions undertaken and evaluates the effectiveness of program activities.



COASTAL
AMERICA ...

A
PARTNERSHIP
FOR
ACTION

PRESERVING AND
RESTORING OUR
COASTAL HERITAGE

1997

COASTAL AMERICA
PROGRESS REPORT

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*Al Gore
Vice President*

*1997 Partnership
Award Letter*

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COASTAL AMERICA PARTNERS

Department of Agriculture
Department of the Air Force
Department of the Army
Department of Commerce
Department of Defense
Department of Energy
Department of Housing and Urban Development
Department of the Interior
Department of the Navy
Department of Transportation
Environmental Protection Agency
Executive Office of the President

“Coastal America has not received a lot of attention, yet this quiet but effective organization has begun the process of restoration on the Neuse River and elsewhere.”

*Bruce Babbitt,
Secretary of
the Interior*

*Quaker Neck Dam
Removal Event,
December 1997*

I. INNOVATIONS IN PARTNERSHIP

THE PROCESS

The Coastal America partnership was created to address the most critical coastal environmental issues facing our country. It is an action-oriented, results-driven process aimed at restoring and preserving our vital coastal ecosystems. It brings the resources, expertise and authorities of the federal resource, infrastructure and military agencies together with state, local, tribal and nongovernmental organizations to form a resourceful, action-based enterprise that is a true partnership initiative—not just another program. This partnership among the federal partner agencies was established by a Memorandum of Understanding and includes the Departments of Agriculture, Air Force, Army, Commerce, Defense, Energy, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Navy, Transportation, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Executive Office of the President.

The partnership operates through a national, regional and local team structure that brings together key participants. This collaborative multi-agency structure enables national policy matters to be identified and resolved; regional plans to be developed; and local projects to be initiated and completed in a timely and cost-efficient manner.

AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

A Principals Group consisting of the Under and Assistant Secretaries from the federal partner agencies addresses national policy issues. Senior level representatives from the headquarters of the federal partner agencies make up the National Implementation Team, which meets monthly to implement the policy directives of the Principals Group and promote collaboration among the participating agencies. This approach results in identification of issues and fosters an effective means to address them by senior level policy-makers and program managers.

AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

Regional Implementation Teams comprised of senior regional managers of the federal partner agencies develop regional strategies. These strategies serve as the basis for program initiatives and the selection of site-specific coastal projects. This joint regional planning process is influenced by the need for sustainable development and, as a result, incorporates environmental as well as economic objectives into regional development plans.

AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

Local projects are implemented by partnership teams representing the stakeholders. These local teams combine the resources and skills of the federal, state and local agencies with relevant nongovernmental endeavors. This cooperative approach promotes cost-effective, creative solutions and results in achievements which no single organization could achieve alone. Infrastructure rehabilitation and improvements are often the starting point for these restoration and protection efforts. Working in partnership, thousands of acres of wetlands are being restored, hundreds of miles of streams for anadromous fish populations are being reestablished, and endangered marine mammals, birds, and fish are being protected.

REFOCUSING THE PARTNERSHIP

Coastal America has continued to serve as a model of how cooperative partnership endeavors can bring about results. As with any process, self-evaluation is a valuable tool to improve effectiveness. The Coastal America partnership allows for refinements and changes to happen as needed. However, the objective to protect, preserve and restore our coastal heritage is a constant throughout the partnership. Beyond this common theme, lie the various means by which the National and Regional Teams reach their goals.

NATIONAL LEVEL

Coastal America's ongoing commitment to explore ways to improve the partnership process at all levels was illustrated by the day-long workshop held in conjunction with the Coastal Zone '97 conference in July 1997, in Boston, Massachusetts. The workshop provided an open forum to discuss issues important to the continuing success of Coastal America---strengthening the federal partnership, increasing state and local involvement, enhancing the use of volunteers and nongovernmental organizations and generating greater public awareness. Looking forward, discussion also revolved around the future of the partnership and the means for integrating the Coastal America process with other coastal programs at the national, regional and local levels.

The Coastal America Principals Group met on April 29, 1997, and on November 6, 1997. They discussed partnership goals and objectives and issued a strategic plan to provide guidance on the partnership's long-term direction. Continuing focus on educational/outreach activities resulted in the designation of three more Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers in 1997. The National Implementation Team met monthly and remained actively involved in national policy issues providing the framework to the Coastal America process.

In October, 1997, Coastal America held its annual retreat in Cape May, New Jersey. Emphasis was again placed on seeking new ways to improve the interagency partnership process and to identify opportunities for future collaboration. Discussions led to the conclusion that increasing awareness of the Coastal America partnership process is key to its continuing success. An increase in awareness must be approached from all levels, including:

- heightened federal knowledge of the process;
- further inclusion of state and local organizations in project planning and implementation;
- more participation by local communities through volunteers and nongovernmental organizations.



The November 1997 Coastal America Principals meeting.

In looking ahead to opportunities for raising awareness of the Coastal America partnership, Coastal America will be actively involved in the activities and programs generated in 1998, the Year of the Ocean. The Year of the Ocean is sponsored by the United Nations and is an international effort to increase public understanding of ocean resources and to ensure that governments do all they can to promote the sustainable use, conservation and exploration of the oceans. As a continuing commitment to the Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers, Coastal America is working to develop educational and outreach materials for the Year of the Ocean.

“The positive working relationships that have been established between the federal, state and local agencies and tribal governments will ensure a long-term commitment to improving the environmental quality of this region for the benefit of the salmon and all of us.”

*James Pipkin,
Counselor to
the Secretary
of the Interior*

*Duwamish
Estuary Habitat
Restoration Team
Award Ceremony
September 1997*

REGIONAL LEVEL

The Regional Implementation Teams (RITs) have addressed those issues that are unique to themselves and that are common elements such as restraints on time. Several of the RITs are evaluating joining forces with established environmental forums within their regions. This will allow the RITs to utilize existing networks, resources and administrative support and strengthen the links to state, tribal, local and non-governmental organizations. Internally, the RITs are looking to further educate member agencies about the partnership opportunities available to them and, in the process, clarify and define the Coastal America partnership approach. In an effort to fully engage the partnership agencies, several RITs held regional principals meetings with regional agency directors.

The Northeast RIT held its second meeting of the Northeast Regional Principals Group on August 12, 1997, at the New London Submarine Base in Groton, Connecticut. Several urban ecological initiatives were discussed such as the West River and Norwalk River watersheds in Connecticut. There was extensive discussion on opportunities to create stronger partnerships by utilizing the resources and expertise of urban program initiatives such as the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Enterprise Communities and Block Grant Programs and the use of the learning centers as a forum for public education on government initiatives in the coastal arena.

The Southeast Natural Resources Leaders Group, comprised of the regional heads of nine Federal agencies with natural resource/environmental responsibilities, serves as the Southeast RIT’s Regional Principals Group. This group meets on a quarterly basis to address a broad array of natural resource related issues, including those upon which the Partnership and the Southeast RIT are focused. The Southeast RIT provides status reports on team activities and projects, seeks guidance, and requests support for new Coastal America initiatives.

The Southwest RIT held its first Regional Principals meeting on October 29, 1997, in Sausalito, California. Mr. Michael Davis, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Civil Works, U.S. Army, represented the Principals and outlined the partnership’s goals and objectives. The RIT chair provided an overview of ongoing projects. During the ensuing discussion, the Regional Principals provided guidance to the team on priority problem areas.

The Northwest RIT held its first Regional Principals Group meeting in conjunction with the Fifth Annual Salmon Homecoming event on September 12, 1997, in Seattle, Washington. Ambassador James Pipkin, Counselor to the Secretary of the Interior and the Principals representative, spoke of the importance of interagency partnerships. After discussion of the role of existing environmental forums in the Northwest, it was agreed that the RIT would explore coordinating their efforts with these entities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- Collaborative partnership process established.
- Consensus reports on key issues published.
- Over 250 projects in 26 states, underway or completed.
- Over 300 non-federal partners participating.
- Network of 8 Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers established.

COASTAL ECOSYSTEM LEARNING CENTERS

Realizing the increased public interest in coastal ecosystems and the continued importance of an informed public, the Coastal America partnership has established a national network of Regional Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers. This approach addresses the growing number of requests from the public for more information on coastal ecosystems. Coastal America's federal partners have a wide variety of resources that can be utilized by the Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers, including expert speakers on unique programs and topics, educational publications, lesson plans and films. By extending the partnership to these private facilities and sharing the expertise and materials of the Coastal America partners, a more productive coastal information network has been created to facilitate public awareness of the value of our coastal resources.

Examples of the specific commitments made by the partnership agencies include:

- participation of federal environmental scientists and managers in a teachers' sabbatical program sponsored by the New England Aquarium;
- a day on the Environmental Protection Agency's ocean survey vessel, *Peter W. Anderson*, for Centers located on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts;
- educational/outreach materials on marine safety provided by the U.S. Coast Guard;
- confiscated items to support aquariums exhibits, including seal pelts, whale bones, and black coral from NOAA; and seabirds from FWS; and
- technical expertise from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to develop an exhibit on the restoration of the South Florida ecosystem.

The New England Aquarium in Boston, Massachusetts, and the Florida Aquarium in Tampa, Florida, were designated as Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers in 1996. Three more designations were completed in 1997: the Mystic Aquarium, Mystic, Connecticut; the National Aquarium in Baltimore, Maryland; and the Aquarium for Wildlife Conservation, Brooklyn, New York. Additionally, three aquariums were nominated, and approved for designation in 1998, including the Monterey Bay Aquarium, Monterey, California; Texas State Aquarium, Corpus Christi, Texas; and the Hatfield Marine Science Center, Newport, Oregon.



David Pittenger, Aquarium Director; Former U.S. Senator Mathias; U.S. Senator Sarbanes; Robert Perciasepe, Chair, Coastal America; and Terry Garcia, Assistant Secretary of Commerce at National Aquarium in Baltimore Designation.

I. INNOVATIONS IN PARTNERSHIP

“The Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center network will greatly enhance Coastal America’s efforts to share resources on coastal management issues. It will allow facilities around the country to tap into the resources of Coastal America’s partners and make their educational programs even stronger.”

*U.S. Senator
Joe Lieberman (CT)*

*Mystic Aquarium
CELC Designation
August 1997*

MYSTIC AQUARIUM

The Mystic Aquarium in Mystic, Connecticut, was designated as the nation’s third Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center on August 12, 1997. Keynote speakers at the designation ceremony included U.S. Senator Joseph I. Lieberman, U.S. Congressman Sam Gejdenson, Arthur J. Rocque, Jr., Assistant Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, and Dr. Robert Ballard, renowned ocean explorer. Senator Lieberman said, “The public is becoming increasingly aware of the fragile nature of our coastal ecosystems, and Coastal America’s network of Learning Centers will help provide vital information and resources to communities.” Congressman Gejdenson reiterated the importance of public awareness, stating that in order to solve the problems facing our coasts, people need to be educated and brought into the process.

NATIONAL AQUARIUM IN BALTIMORE

The National Aquarium in Baltimore, Maryland, was designated as the fourth Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center on September 24, 1997. At the designation event, keynote speakers included U.S. Senator Paul S. Sarbanes, former U.S. Senator Charles McC. Matthias, and Baltimore Mayor Kurt L. Schmoke. Senator Sarbanes recognized “with this designation, the Baltimore Aquarium will play an extremely vital role in providing technical assistance and materials to educate the public about the environmental and economic importance of our coastal areas, as well as the problems affecting them.”

AQUARIUM FOR WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

The fifth Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center was designated at the Aquarium for Wildlife Conservation, Brooklyn, New York, on October 7, 1997. Keynote speakers at the designation ceremony included Howard Golden, President, Brooklyn Borough, and Commissioner Joel Miele, New York City Department of Environmental Protection. Brooklyn Borough President Golden noted that the designation as a Learning Center would “help to conserve the natural beauty of our oceans.”



William J. Cassidy, Jr., Acting Assistant Secretary of the Navy and Designating Official at the Mystic Aquarium Ceremony.

PARTNERSHIP AWARDS PROGRAM

In 1997, Coastal America initiated its Partnership Awards Program, recognizing outstanding partnership efforts or multi-agency projects designed to protect and restore coastal ecosystems. At least three federal agencies must have been involved in the process or project being recognized with state and local government and/or private alliances involvement viewed as an added benefit. The Awards recognize those innovative and unique efforts which could only be achieved through a collaborative partnership approach. Five project teams and two process teams were recognized this year.

Award plaques and letters of congratulations from Vice President Albert Gore were presented at award ceremonies throughout the country. In his letter of congratulations, Vice President Gore stated that “[t]his award recognizes outstanding team efforts demonstrating the collaborative nature of the Coastal America Partnership. . . . As an award winner, you represent the good that can be accomplished by our government when we all bring our resources to the aid of a common goal.”

NARRAGANSET BAY EELGRASS MAPPING TEAM

The Narraganset Bay Eelgrass Mapping Team is a Northeast RIT project. The team created an interagency project from a disassociated group of efforts. Specifically, the U.S. Navy was working on the detection of submerged vegetation due to its military implications for hiding underwater mines. The Corps of Engineers was mapping seagrass because of its habitat value and significance for dredging projects. The Fish and Wildlife Service and Narraganset Bay National Estuary Program were interested in habitat management. The coordination of these efforts produced habitat mapping and initiated new technology that will benefit military and resource agencies.

NORTHERN RIGHT WHALE MONITORING TEAM

Northern Right Whale Project and Hotline, Monitoring, and Early Warning System is a project of the Southeast RIT involving federal, state and local governments as well as volunteer and private groups. The waters off southern Georgia and northern Florida are the calving grounds for the Right Whale whose total worldwide population numbers only about 300. These same waters are also heavily traveled by numerous vessels with net entanglements and ship strikes slowing the recovery and growth of the whale population. The partners organized an early warning system on the marine radio to immediately inform all mariners of the presence and location of whales. Overflights by various federal agencies locate whales and relay information to vessel captains; a volunteer network augments this by reporting possible whale sightings. This monitoring project has increased whale population growth and reduced shipping costs.

SANDY ISLAND MITIGATION TEAM

The Sandy Island Mitigation Advisory Panel was comprised of members from federal agencies, South Carolina state agencies and private organizations who worked together to develop and obtain a purchase plan for a wetland mitigation bank totaling 16,825 acres south of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. This wetland mitigation bank consists of forested wetlands and a sand ridge upland habitat and is home to the federally endangered red-cockaded woodpecker in addition to many archeologically significant sites. Located only 15 miles from the Myrtle Beach resort, this purchase will ensure that a large tract of ecologically sensitive wetlands will be protected, while allowing construction of a highway.

SONOMA BAYLANDS WETLANDS RESTORATION TEAM

The Sonoma Baylands Wetlands Restoration Project was a partnership of federal and local agencies and private organizations. Sonoma Baylands is a 348 acre former tidal wetland that was diked, drained, and used as an oat hay field for many years. This project assisted in the restoration of tidal wetlands by demonstrating the beneficial use of dredged sediments on a 39-acre pilot site and then transferring those lessons to the remaining acreage. The project has provided habitat for endangered species and expanded the feeding and nesting area for waterfowl which is critical in a region that has lost approximately 90 percent of its historic wetlands.



Sonoma Baylands Wetlands Restoration Team.

“The combined and coordinated efforts of many dedicated individuals, representing an array of federal and state agencies, as well as the private sector, have led to important progress in right whale protection. Although the fight is far from won, I applaud the impressive start that the Implementation Team has made in this formidable task, and I am overjoyed that the Coastal America program has recognized your efforts and achievements.”

*Dr. John Reynolds,
Chairman
Marine Mammals
Commission*

*Right Whale Team
Award Ceremony
October 1997*

I. INNOVATIONS IN PARTNERSHIP

DUWAMISH ESTUARY HABITAT RESTORATION TEAM

The Duwamish Estuary Habitat Restoration resulted from the combined effort of federal agencies, state and local governments, and Native American tribes. The Port of Seattle, Washington, located on the Duwamish River, is one of the largest ports on the west coast. Past dredging and filling activities have eliminated almost 99 percent of the estuarine habitat. As a result, dependent natural resources, such as salmon, declined significantly. Three separate sites within the estuary were chosen to demonstrate a variety of habitat restoration techniques known to be effective in an urban environment. Mudflats, emergent marsh and intertidal sloughs were re-created. This project fostered long-term relationships and resulted in environmental benefits as well as an improved port.

NORTHEAST REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

The NERIT process has provided a multi-agency ecosystem approach to coastal issues in the northeast region of the United States. The NERIT made a concentrated effort in their regional action plan to address the restoration of salt marshes in New England which have been degraded by infrastructure development as well as continuing to confront other issues in a watershed context. Specifically, the NERIT partnership process accomplished the following:

- Developed a strategy to address both environmental and infrastructure development objectives which supports wetland restoration in conjunction with highway improvements;

- Developed partnership agreements with the states of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut; and

- Established the first Coastal America Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center at the New England Aquarium.

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

The SERIT has made significant progress toward solving major ecosystem problems in their region through collaboration among federal, state, and non-governmental organizations. The SERIT has produced technology transfer mechanisms and educational outreach efforts, such as a regional HomePage and a quarterly newsletter. Many areas in the region experience tremendous pressures from urban expansion. With this in mind, the SERIT's strategic focus is to evaluate each project's impact on biodiversity and to apply sound ecosystem management principles. As a result, the SERIT has made a concerted effort to study declining migratory fish populations and threats to other species and their habitats. Achievements in the partnership process include:



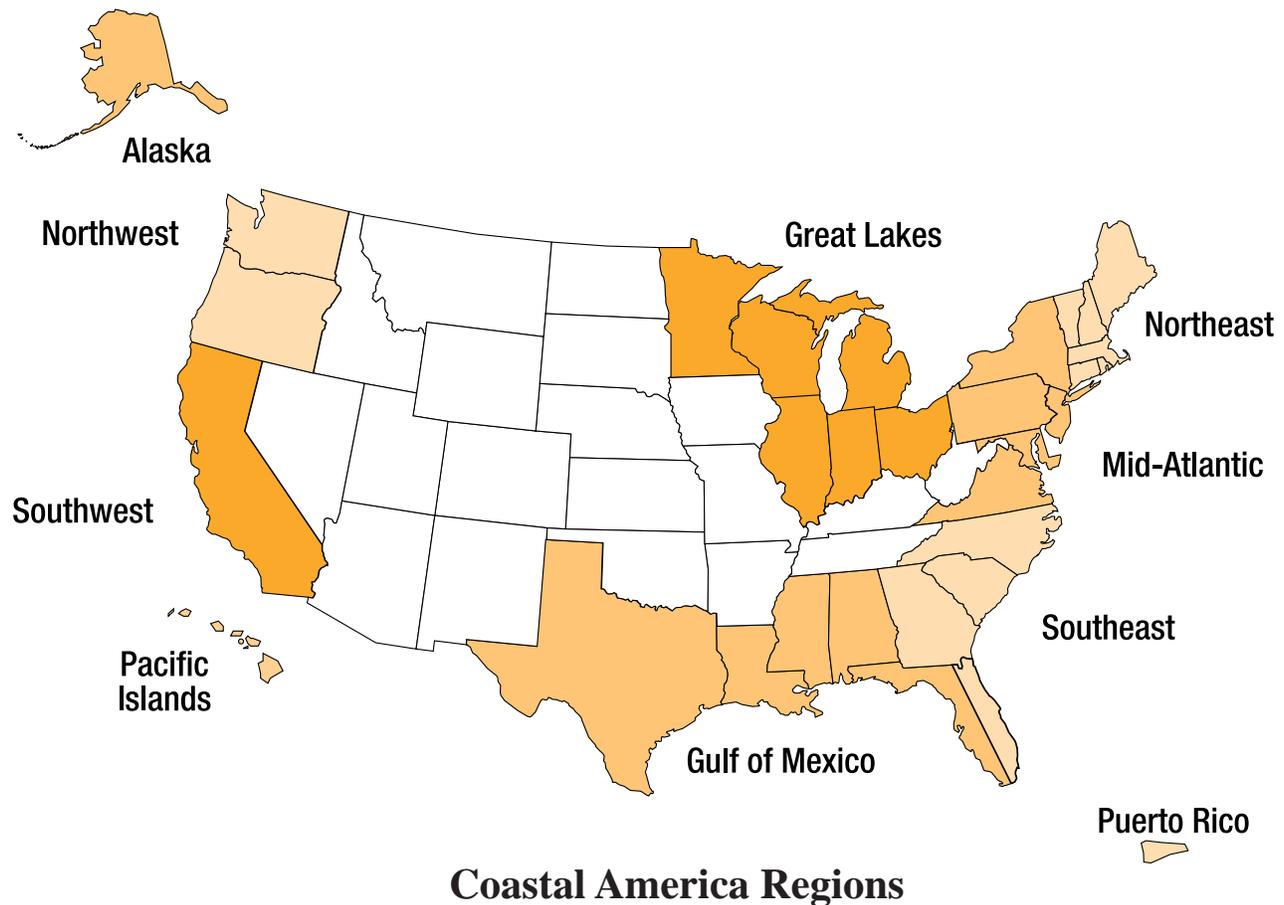
Southeast Regional Implementation Team.

- Promoted recovery of the Northern Right Whale along the Georgia and Florida coasts;
- Restored important wetland and upland areas, including Munyon Island, Florida; and
- Implemented projects to remove dams that block anadromous fish spawning grounds such as the Quaker Neck dam on the Neuse River in North Carolina.

II. REDEFINING REGIONAL EFFORTS

Coastal America’s nine Regional Implementation Teams (RITs) are the cornerstone of the partnership process. Regional representatives from each of the partnership agencies make up the RITs. In a cooperative effort, they develop site-specific, watershed-centered projects that are strengthened by the partnership process. Each RIT develops regional action strategies designed to articulate significant ecological issues, and regional goals and objectives. Within the context of each of these regional agendas, they identify and plan for site-specific coastal projects that address restoration and preservation issues, such as habitat loss, nonpoint source pollution, and contaminated sediments. The RITs then establish priorities for implementation of projects within their regions. Since Coastal America’s inception in 1992, the teams have generated more than 250 projects in 26 states throughout the country involving over 300 nonfederal sponsors. As a result, thousands of acres of wetlands have been restored, hundreds of miles of spawning streams have been reestablished, point and nonpoint polluting sources have been reduced and endangered species habitat has been protected.

Over time, however, it has become clear that a variety of approaches are needed to achieve success. For example, several RITs are exploring linking with other environmentally-focused forums within their respective regions in order to capitalize on existing resources and personnel. The result is an extension of the power base available to contribute to site-specific coastal projects. Five major components of the Coastal America process contribute to this improvement: *The Partnership Process*; *Public Involvement/Education*; *Technology Transfer*; *A Systems Approach*; and *Adaptive Management and Monitoring*.



II. REDEFINING REGIONAL EFFORTS

“Coastal America represents a somewhat different approach. It provides a forum under which agencies discuss their plans and programs in a context that is not crisis driven. Coastal America also brings together a much broader set of players than we normally think of in an environmental context.

*James Pipkin,
Counselor to
the Secretary
of the Interior*

*Northwest
Regional
Principals Meeting
September 1997*



Northeast Regional Principals Meeting.

- *The Partnership Process: By combining resources and authorities, Coastal America's partners accomplish what no single organization could achieve alone. For example, the use of military training exercises to remove asphalt on an abandoned airfield allowed the restoration of coastal sand plain habitat on the Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge, Rhode Island.*
- *Public Involvement/Education: Recognizing that the active involvement of the public increases their environmental awareness and leads to positive results, three more Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers have been designated at the Mystic Aquarium in Mystic, Connecticut; the National Aquarium in Baltimore, Maryland; and the Aquarium for Wildlife Conservation in Brooklyn, New York.*
- *Technology Transfer: Coastal America has successfully demonstrated proven technologies and has encouraged their use in various coastal areas of the country. The formation of Coastal America's Scientific and Technology Transfer Working Group will provide ongoing access to a cadre of experts from the partnership agencies who can provide expertise on an as-needed-basis.*
- *A Systems Approach: The partnership has demonstrated how a broad regional issue can be dealt with at the local level. For example, the Southeast RIT encompasses an area of the country whose coastal ecosystems have experienced extreme pressure from urban expansion. On a site specific level, the SERIT is involved with the Rose Bay restoration in Florida. An abandoned causeway and a constricted bridge opening on the highway near the mouth of this highly degraded estuary has caused poor tidal flushing and circulation; the SERIT is seeking to correct these conditions.*
- *Adaptive Management and Monitoring: The RITs take a realistic approach and remain flexible when they initiate any project. Through experience, they have found that evaluating what does and does not work is critical to guaranteeing successful efforts in the future. For example, in the southwest, ongoing monitoring of the completed Sonoma Baylands Project is providing valuable information on reestablishing wetland vegetation in the San Francisco Bay Estuary.*

The following pages highlight the regional strategies, noteworthy projects and some of the lessons learned from the Coastal America partnership efforts at the regional level.

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NORTHEAST

The Northeast Regional Implementation Team (NERIT) held a meeting of the Northeast Regional Principals Group on August 12, 1997. At the meeting, William Cassidy, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Navy presented the Navy Eelgrass Mapping Project Team with a 1997 Coastal America Partnership Award for their partnership efforts. The project developed techniques that will allow submerged aquatic vegetation to be more readily identified. Mr. Cassidy also recognized the NERIT with a Partnership Award for continuing to seek collaborative endeavors to protect and preserve coastal ecosystems.

NINIGRET NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

The value of the partnership is apparent in the Northeast Regional Implementation Team's undertaking of the restoration of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge located in southern Rhode Island. The Refuge contains a former auxiliary airfield whose construction destroyed nearly 80 acres of rare coastal sand plain habitat. Refuge managers had wanted to remove the asphalt of the abandoned air strip. When brought to its attention, the NERIT evaluated several options and concluded that the restoration effort undertaken as a training exercise for a military construction battalion was an excellent opportunity.

The National Implementation Team coordinated the request of the NERIT for military assistance with the Pentagon who, in turn, arranged for an Army Reserve unit to conduct a training exercise on the Refuge. In August 1997 the restoration effort began with the Army Reserves removing more than half of the runways. There are plans to complete the restoration in 1998. The two-week training exercise gave the Army Reserve unit actual experience in removal and heavy equipment operation techniques and resulted in a major ecological improvement for the Refuge.



Partial removal of runway by Army reserve unit at Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge, Rhode Island.

MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING

Since the inception of Coastal America, the NERIT has executed three major partnership Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with the states of Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts. These MOUs have set in motion a series of restoration efforts that will significantly improve the ecological productivity of New England. For example, in Connecticut, there is a major focus on implementing more than 450 ecological restoration projects in Long Island Sound. The collaborative energy of the Coastal America process brought diverse programs (including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Environmental Protection Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Department of Transportation) together to provide the support that the Connecticut Department of Environment needed to achieve success for these projects.

The Massachusetts Office of Wetland Restoration and Banking has been established to implement their program in concert with the NERIT as a result of the MOU. The opportunities in this partnership effort include the Sagamore Marsh restoration project, several watershed initiatives, such as the Neponset River Watershed, and numerous wetland, tidal exchange and other habitat restorations.

The Rhode Island MOU was signed at the site of the now constructed Gallilee Salt Marsh restoration. There are efforts underway to restore the Blackstone River and the Coastal Salt Ponds ecosystems. The goal is to restore the degraded coastal habitats of Rhode Island.

II. REDEFINING REGIONAL EFFORTS

MYSTIC AQUARIUM COASTAL ECOSYSTEM LEARNING CENTER

In August 1997, The Mystic Aquarium in Mystic, Connecticut was designated as the third Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center by William J. Cassidy, Jr., Acting Assistant Secretary of the Navy. The designation and the ongoing collaboration between Coastal America's federal partners and the aquarium will provide the facility with valuable educational resources to raise public awareness and understanding of coastal and marine issues. The pledged support includes educational materials, posters and other outreach information and technical expertise.

MID-ATLANTIC

COASTAL ECOSYSTEM LEARNING CENTERS

NATIONAL AQUARIUM IN BALTIMORE

AQUARIUM FOR WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

The nation's fourth and fifth Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers were designated in the fall of 1997. The National Aquarium in Baltimore, Maryland was designated by Terry Garcia, Assistant Secretary of Commerce, at a ceremony held September 24, 1997. The Aquarium for Wildlife Conservation located in Brooklyn, New York, was designated by Michael Davis, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army, on October 7, 1997. The designation of these two aquariums continued the growing tradition of partnership with the federal agencies of Coastal America as seen by the ongoing commitment of educational and outreach materials, partnering on projects and providing technical expertise.

CAPE MAY MEADOWS RESTORATION PROJECT

Cape May Meadows is a 350 acre wetland site near Cape May, New Jersey. The site, which is jointly owned by the state of New Jersey and the Nature Conservancy, is being threatened by beach erosion. The resulting salt water intrusion into freshwater wetlands affects migrating bird habitat. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is taking the lead in a feasibility study and other partnership agencies are assisting in evaluating alternative plans to address the habitat loss.



Cape May Meadows Restoration Site, New Jersey.

“The Baltimore Aquarium’s Coastal America Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center Designation came at a most opportune time. With this designation, the Baltimore Aquarium will play an extremely vital role in providing technical assistance and materials to educate the public about the environmental and economic importance of our coastal areas, as well as the problems affecting them.”

*U.S. Senator
Paul Sarbanes (MD)*

*National Aquarium
of Baltimore CELC
Designation
Ceremony
September 1997*

SOUTHEAST

The Southeast Regional Implementation Team (SERIT) received three 1997 Partnership Awards. Mr. Michael Davis, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, presented the SERIT a 1997 Coastal America Partnership Award, at the Southeast Natural Resource Leadership Group Meeting on August 12, 1997, recognizing the team's outstanding leadership. On August 27, 1997, Mr. Anthony Kane, Executive Director, Federal Highway Administration, presented the Sandy Island Mitigation Project Team with a 1997 Coastal America Partnership Award recognizing the preservation of nearly 17,000 acres of critical coastal habitat from future development. Mr. Terry Garcia, Assistant Secretary of Commerce, presented the Right Whale Monitoring Project Team with a 1997 Coastal America Partnership Award at a ceremony held October 23, 1997, at the Jacksonville Museum of Science and History in Jacksonville, Florida.

QUAKER NECK DAM REMOVAL PROJECT

A prime example of tenacity and partnership at work is the Quaker Neck Dam Removal Project on the Neuse River, North Carolina. A team of federal and state agencies and non-governmental organizations worked on this unique project including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the National Marine Fisheries Service, Carolina Power and Light Company, North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission and North Carolina Coastal Federation.

This project is of particular significance for several reasons. Most importantly, it is a precedent setting event which vividly illustrates that dams can be removed for the benefit of the environment without sacrificing economic growth and quality of life. It also exemplifies how the various project team members persistently pursued various routes to achieve the dam's removal in spite of numerous barriers and setbacks. As a result, the solution of mechanical removal addresses all legal and safety issues, as well as satisfying the project's environmental objectives in a cost-effective manner.

The dam removal has restored fish spawning habitat along 75 miles of the Neuse River and 925 miles of its tributaries. This restoration will benefit striped bass, American shad, hickory shad and short-nosed sturgeon that spawn in this freshwater river system. It is also expected that mussels upstream from the dam will benefit, including the endangered dwarf wedge mussel. Historically, the Neuse River supported fisheries of national prominence and it is hoped that the reestablishment of this primary spawning habitat will bring back these important commercial and recreational fisheries.

The physical demolition of the Quaker Neck Dam on the Neuse River in North Carolina began with a ceremony on December 17, 1997. Dignitaries participating in the event included the Secretary of the Interior, Bruce Babbitt; Rolland Schmitten, Director, National Marine Fisheries Service; Secretary Wayne McDevitt, North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources; Martin Lancaster, President of the North Carolina Community College System and former U.S. Representative; and Bill Cavanaugh, President and CEO of Carolina Power and Light, who hosted the ceremonies.



Removal of Quaker Neck Dam, North Carolina.

II. REDEFINING REGIONAL EFFORTS

“This project will be a major benefit to our commercial and recreational fishing business in North Carolina and to fishermen on the Atlantic seaboard. It also underscores how a private business like Carolina Power and Light can work successfully with state and federal agencies to improve the quality of our environment for generations to come.

*Wayne McDevitt,
Secretary
North Carolina
Department of
Environment and
Natural Resources*

*Quaker Neck Dam
Removal Event,
December 1997*

ROSE BAY RESTORATION

Rose Bay is a small estuary near Port Orange, Florida which is highly degraded due to poor tidal flushing and circulation caused by an abandoned causeway fill and a constricted bridge opening on the existing highway near the mouth of the estuary. Excessive settlement of sediments in the lower end of the estuary; non-point source runoff; and septic tank seepage all contribute to the pollution in Rose Bay. Coastal America partners will pursue a comprehensive solution involving removal of the constrictions, dredging of sediments, sewage treatment facilities and other needed measures. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the lead Federal agency on this effort with a number of other partnership agencies, as well as the Florida Department of Transportation, St. Johns Water Management District and the City of Port Orange, Florida.

GULF OF MEXICO

In an effort to maximize the full range of expertise and administrative support available in the region, the Gulf of Mexico Regional Implementation Team (GMRIT) integrated efforts with the Environmental Protection Agency’s Gulf of Mexico Program. As of October 1, 1997, the Gulf of Mexico Program will provide administrative and planning support to the activities of the GMRIT.

LAKE BORGNE SHORELINE RESTORATION

The Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, located just north of New Orleans, Louisiana, has contacted the GMRIT with a concern about a retreating portion of the Lake Borgne shoreline and associated emergent marsh. As a result of the meeting facilitated by the GMRIT and the Gulf of Mexico Program, the framework of a candidate project was identified and the state of Louisiana indicated its interest in sharing the cost of an environmental restoration project. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, as the federal lead, has subsequently requested funds to initiate the first phase of the project process. It is anticipated that other federal and state partnership agencies will collaborate with the Corps in this effort.



Eroding Shoreline of Lake Borgne, Louisiana.

TEXAS STATE AQUARIUM COASTAL ECOSYSTEM LEARNING CENTER

On November 6, 1997, the GMRIT’s recommendation to the Principals Group to designate the Texas State Aquarium, Corpus Christi, Texas, as a Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center was approved. The designation ceremony is scheduled for March 30, 1998.

1997 COASTAL AMERICA PROGRESS REPORT

SOUTHWEST

The Southwest Regional Implementation Team (SWRIT) held its first meeting of the Regional Principals Group on October 29, 1997 at the Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco Bay Model. At the meeting, Mr. Michael Davis, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army, presented the Sonoma Baylands Wetland Restoration Project Team a 1997 Coastal America Partnership Award. This project restored 348 acres of tidal wetlands by demonstrating the beneficial use of dredged sediment to reestablish fish and wildlife habitat.

MONTEREY BAY AQUARIUM COASTAL ECOSYSTEM LEARNING CENTER

The Principals Group approved the SWRIT's recommendation to designate the Monterey Bay Aquarium, Monterey, California, as a Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center on November 6, 1997. The Aquarium has the highest attendance in the country and an outstanding educational program serving 70,000 school children each year. A designation ceremony took place on January 27, 1998, making the Monterey Bay Aquarium the first west coast Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center.

NORTHWEST

The Northwest Regional Implementation Team (NWRIT) held its first Regional Principals Meeting in conjunction with the Fifth Annual Salmon Homecoming on September 12, 1997, in Seattle, Washington. At the Salmon Homecoming event, Ambassador James Pipkin, Counselor to Secretary of the Interior, presented the Duwamish Estuary Habitat Restoration Project Team with a 1997 Coastal America Partnership Award. Through a series of site-specific projects, the Duwamish team restored intertidal habitat important to juvenile salmon populations and demonstrated that important environmental resources can be restored while sustaining economic development in urban areas. The Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission and the Muckleshoot and Suquamish tribes were also recognized for their efforts in salmon habitat restoration with certificates of appreciation presented to the Commission and the tribal council chairs.

The NWRIT continues to explore the possibility of integrating its efforts with an existing environmental forum. There are several established, well-known organizations in the northwest who could provide expertise and administrative support and, conversely, the Coastal America partnership would provide the capabilities of its partnership agencies.

HATFIELD MARINE SCIENCE CENTER COASTAL ECOSYSTEM LEARNING CENTER

The Principals Group approved the Hatfield Marine Science Center, Newport, Oregon, as a Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center on November 6, 1997 based on the recommendation of the NWRIT. The designation ceremony is scheduled for May 8, 1998.



Award Certificates Presented by Ambassador Pipkin to Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, Muckleshoot Tribe and Suquamish Tribe.

“Coastal America really works and achieves on-the-ground results... It offers the ability to pool assets and accomplish results, influence policy and remove barriers...”

*Jeff Benoit,
Director, Office
of Ocean and
Coastal Resource
Management,
NOAA*

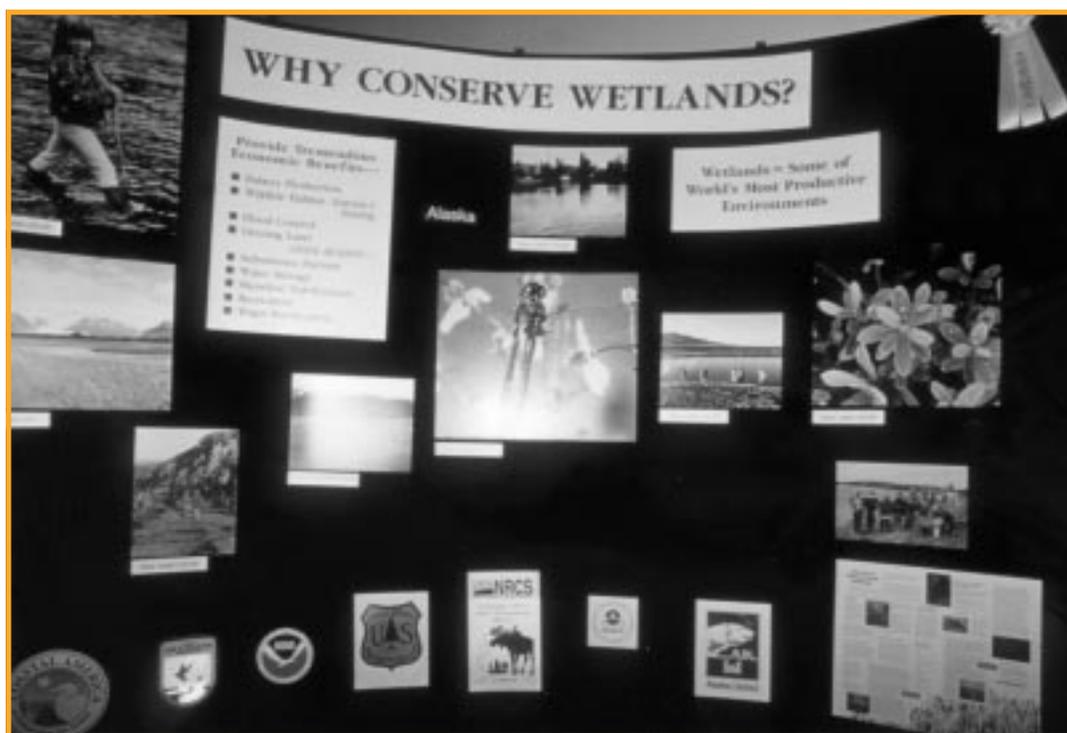
*First
Organizational
Meeting of the
Pacific Islands
Regional
Implementation
Team
September 1997*

ALASKA

The Alaska Regional Implementation Team (AKRIT) has initiated the development of a resolution between the federal partnership agencies and the State of Alaska. They hope to collaborate on the restoration and management of aquatic habitats and to address current constraints which limit the effective and practicable restoration and management of these habitats.

EXHIBIT BOOTH

The AKRIT developed an exhibition booth on wetlands, their function and benefits. The booth was displayed at the Alaska State Fair, August 22 through September 1, 1997, in Palmer, Alaska. During the remainder of 1997, the booth was displayed at the University of Alaska Consortium Library and the Resource Development Council Conference and there are plans for its display at the Anchorage Loussac Library in early 1998.



Alaska RIT Wetlands Booth Display.

PACIFIC ISLANDS

The Pacific Islands Regional Implementation Team (PIRIT) held its first organizational meeting in Hawaii on September 24, 1997, in conjunction with the 15th Annual Pacific Islands Coastal Zone Management Conference. Coastal America's Deputy Director chaired the meeting and briefed the participants on the partnership's history, organizational structure, accomplishments, and benefits of the partnership. The Director of NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, spoke of the value of Coastal America, particularly in accomplishing activities which a single organization could not do alone. The PIRIT will meet in early 1998 with the island territories and, if appropriate, will elect a chair and discuss organizational issues.

III. INFLUENCING THE FUTURE

In the near future, over half of the population of the United States will reside within 50 miles of the coast. Such increasing population pressures threaten the sustainability of our coastal ecosystems. Conversely, communities see economic viability as a paramount concern. The Coastal America partnership continues to believe the country is best served if significant environmental problems are addressed through a collaborative process that balances environmental and economic goals. Since 1992, Coastal America sponsored projects have exemplified the concept of sustainable development by coupling restoration and preservation of our coastal environment with economic vitality.

The long term management of our coastal environment requires the collaboration of federal, state and local governments, private organizations and an informed public. When environmental restoration and preservation concerns are identified, the Coastal America process should come to mind as a viable mechanism to bring about the effective resolution of these concerns. Toward this end, Coastal America will continue to aggressively recruit partners from all areas of the environmental and economic communities to develop projects that demonstrate the “value added” by the Coastal America approach.

To continue to raise the public’s understanding of coastal issues, the designation of Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers (CELC) will remain a priority. Also, Coastal America and the CELC’s will expand the network to encourage a comprehensive educational/outreach program that combines the assets of these aquariums and federal agencies with those of the state, local and tribal partners. This network should result in heightened public awareness of critical coastal issues and increase public involvement in restoration and protection efforts.

The Coastal America partnership process minimizes bureaucracy, reduces costs and facilitates planning and implementation of site-specific projects that benefit coastal ecosystems. Increased effectiveness can be achieved by furthering involvement within the federal system and with state and local governments. The Principals Group has urged the representatives of the partnership to encourage program integration and ensure more comprehensive and cost-effective solutions. Toward this end, several Regional Principals Groups have been established to promote greater agency collaboration and enable aggressive regional action. Expanding the involvement of state governments through memoranda of understanding and resolutions with the respective Regional Principals will further the partnership at this level. Also, the Regional Implementation Teams have actively pursued the involvement of local governments and private organizations to make sure that all relevant stakeholders are included in the partnership’s collaborative problem solving process. Development of this “shared vision” approach for our coastal ecosystems will improve our ability to restore and preserve the coastal environment.



Coastal America Team on field trip to Cape May Meadows, New Jersey.

The new strategic vision of the Coastal America process is guided by five major goals that will be incorporated into future initiatives, activities and projects. The goals will serve as a “roadmap” as the Coastal America process continues to preserve and restore coastal ecosystems:

- Improve the partnership process and encourage greater collaboration.
- Expand the partnership process to include the protection and preservation of coastal resources during infrastructure planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance and rehabilitation.
- Increase the public’s understanding of the value of healthy and productive coastal ecosystems and their relationship to economic well being.
- Facilitate the transfer of information among the partners to achieve the protection, preservation and restoration of the Nation’s coastal ecosystems while simultaneously contributing to a strong economy and a high quality of life.
- Work to effectively link the national goals of economic growth, environmental protection and social equity.

In addition, all agencies are developing or have developed strategic goals in compliance with the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA). Since many of these goals are environmental in nature, it is appropriate for the partnership agencies to use the Coastal America collaborative process to facilitate achievement of common goals.

Since its inception, Coastal America has realized that a collaborative problem-solving forum of government agencies and local entities results in the effective protection and restoration of coastal areas. Not content to rely on past successes, Coastal America continues to look for new partners and stakeholders to confront coastal ecosystem issues while integrating social, economic and environmental values to protect and support clean habitats and water resources.

Coastal America can facilitate achievement of the GPRA goals through its collaborative process. We have an excellent opportunity to merge the achievement of GPRA goals by linking the mainstream work of the partnership agencies through Coastal America.”

*Robert Perciasepe
Assistant
Administrator
for Water,
U.S. EPA and
Chair,
Coastal America*

*Letter to
Coastal America
Participants
December 1997*



Aerial view of the Channel Islands, California.

PRESERVING AND RESTORING OUR COASTAL HERITAGE...

FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS



COASTAL ECOSYSTEM LEARNING CENTER ACTIVITIES

COASTAL ECOSYSTEM LEARNING CENTERS

The ultimate aim of each learning center is to facilitate public awareness of critical coastal issues and to encourage involvement in activities that benefit coastal ecosystems.

THE NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM

Central Wharf
Boston, MA 02110-3399
(617) 973-5200

THE FLORIDA AQUARIUM

701 Channelside Drive
Tampa, FL 33602
(813) 273-4000

MYSTIC AQUARIUM

55 Coogan Boulevard
Mystic, CT 06355-1997
(860) 572-5955

NATIONAL AQUARIUM IN BALTIMORE

Pier 3
501 East Pratt Street
Baltimore, MD 21202-3194
(410) 576-3850

AQUARIUM FOR WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Boardwalk at West 8th Street Brooklyn, NY 11224
(718) 265-3400

MONTEREY BAY AQUARIUM

886 Cannery Row
Monterey, CA 93940-1085
(408) 648-4800

TEXAS STATE AQUARIUM

2710 North Shoreline Boulevard
Corpus Christi Beach
Corpus Christi, TX 78402
(512) 881-1200

HATFIELD MARINE SCIENCE CENTER

2030 South Marine Science Drive
Newport, OR 97365-5296
(541) 867-0257

FEDERAL PARTNERS

Executive Office of the President

Council on Environmental Quality

Department of Agriculture

Farm Services Administration

Forest Service

National Resources Conservation Service

Department of the Air Force

Department of the Army

Corps of Engineers

Department of Commerce

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Marine Fisheries Service

National Ocean Service

Department of Defense

Department of Energy

Department of Housing and Urban Development

Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management

Fish and Wildlife Service

Minerals Management Service

National Park Service

Geological Survey

Department of the Navy

Navy

Marine Corps

Department of Transportation

Coast Guard

Federal Aviation Administration

Federal Highway Administration

Federal Railroad Administration

Maritime Administration

Environmental Protection Agency

General Services Administration

Marine Mammal Commission

National Science Foundation

COASTAL AMERICA PROJECT

NON-FEDERAL PARTNERS

Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs
Alameda County Flood Control District
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Alaska Discovery Foundation
Alaska Science and Technology Foundation
Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
American Littoral Society
Americorps
AMTRAK
Anita C. Light Estuary Center
Anne Arundel Community College
Aquarium for Wildlife Conservation, NY
Aransas Warehouse Services, TX
Arete Construction
Armand Bayou Foundation, TX
Associated Scientists of Woods Hole
Association of Fishery Guides, FL
Astoria High School
Atlantic Coast Conservation Association
B J Services, TX
Baldwin County, AL.
Boy Scouts of America
Brevard County Mosquito Control District, FL
California Coastal Conservancy
California Department of Fish and Game
California Department of Transportation
California Environmental Protection Agency
California Plant Society
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
California State Parks
California Wildlife Conservation Board
Canadian Lamprey Control
Canaveral Ports Authority
Captain Ted Appell Tour Boats, TX.
Cardinina Power Light Company
Carolina Power and Light
Center for Marine Conservation
Centex, Inc. TX
Chesapeake Bay Commission
City and Borough of Juneau
City of Hampton Wetlands Board, VA
City of Hayward
City of Miami
City of Norfolk
City of Norfolk Wetlands Board
City of Savannah, GA
City of Seattle, WA
City of Soldotna, AK
City of Tampa
City of Toledo, OH
City of Warrenton
Coastal Research Laboratory
Coastal Wildlife Refuge Society and Volunteers
Cockroach Bay User's Group
College of William and Mary
Commissioner, Port of Astoria
Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection
Connecticut Department of Transportation
Conoco, Inc., Corpus Christi District, TX
Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association
Cooperating Chemical Industries
Cornell Cooperative Extension
CREST
Dauphin Island Sea Laboratory
Department of Environment & Natural Resources
Department of Environmental Conservation
Department of Environmental Protection
Department of Fish & Game
Department of Natural Resources
Department of Transportation and Facilities
Derrick Construction, Inc. TX
Duck Creek Homeowners
Ducks Unlimited
E & B, Rockport Area Stores, TX
East Bay Regional Park District
East Harris County Manufacturing Association, TX
Environmental Solutions Corporation
Florida Aquarium, FL
Florida - Bay County School System
Florida - Dade County Department of Natural Resources
Florida Department of Education
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Florida Department of Forestry
Florida Department of Natural Resources
Florida Game and Freshwater Fisheries
Florida-Gulf County
Florida Inland Navigation District
Florida Marine Institute
Florida Marine Patrol
Florida Marine Research Institute (FMRI) of the Bureau of Marine Research of Florida
Florida Marine Resources Council
Florida Parks Department
Florida St. Johns Water Management District
Fort Steven State Park
Friends of Saint Andrew State Park
Friends of Saint Joe Bay
Friendswood Development Company
Galveston Bay Foundation, TX
Gastineau Guiding
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Georgia Department of Transportation
Georgia Environmental Policy Institute
Georgia Land Trust Service Center
Georgia Ports Authority
Goldbet Incorporated
Golden Gate Chapter of Audubon Society
Grand Bay Development
Great Lakes Fishery Commission
Great Lakes Power
Guam Clearinghouse, Bureau of Planning
Guam Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources
Guam Environmental Protection Agency
Gulf Coast Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), TX
Gulf County, AL.
Halibuton Inc., TX
Hanna Construction
Hanover County
Harford Community College
Harford Technical High School
Harlingen County, TX
Hatfield Marine Science Center
Hayward Area Recreation and Park District
Hayward Shoreline Planning Agency
Hewitt Foundation
Hidalgo SWCD, TX.
Hillsborough Community College
Hillsborough County Environmental Lands Acquisition and Protection Program (HCELAPP)

Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Commission
Hillsborough County, FL
Hillsborough County Parks and Recreation Department
Hillsborough County Road and Street Department
Hillsborough County Storm Water Design Section of the Hillsborough County Engineering
Hollywood Marine, Inc., TX
Houston Concrete Products, TX
Houston Port Authority, TX
Houston Power and Light Company, TX
Huna Totem Corporation
Indian River County, FL
Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program, FL
Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin
Izaak Walton League
Jacksonville Ports Authority
Jay Bludworth Company, TX
Jefferson Parish, LA.
Jekyll Island Authority
Jewell Public School
Juneau Trot Unlimited
Juneau Youth Services
Kenai Peninsula Groundwater Task Force
King County, WA
Laurel Marcus and Associates
Lewis Environmental Services, Inc.
Long Island Sound Program
Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Maine Atlantic Sea Run Salmon Commission
Maine Department of Inland Fisheries
Maine Department of Marine Resources
Marianas Audubon Society
Marine Environmental Research and Training Station
Marine Resources Council of East Florida
Maryland Department of Environmental Regulatory Administration
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Massachusetts Bays Program
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Massachusetts Department of Transportation
Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
Massachusetts Office of Wetlands Restoration and Banking
Maumee Soil and Water Conservation District
McAmis Industries
Metro Transportation Commission, CA.
Miami-Dade Public Works Department
Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Authority
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Mississippi Bureau of Marine Resources
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
Mobile County, AL
Mohegan Tribe, CT
Monroe County, NY
Monterey Bay Aquarium, CA
Monterey Parks Department, CA
Montgomery County Government, MD
Muckleshoot Tribe, WA
Mystic Aquarium, CT.

Narraganset Bay Program
National Aquarium in Baltimore, MD
National Audubon Society
National Capitol Planning Commission
National Fish and Wildlife Administration
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Native American Project
New England Aquarium
New Hampshire Coastal Zone Management
New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands, Urban Forestry Center
New Hampshire Fish and Game Department
New Hampshire Jackson Estuarine Laboratory
New Hanover Conservancy
New Hanover County
New York Aquarium for Wildlife Conservation, NY
Ninigret Tribe, RI
North Carolina Adopt-A-Trail Program
North Carolina Coastal Foundation
North Carolina Department of Transportation
North Carolina Department of Environment
North Carolina Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources
North Carolina Department of Environmental Protection
North Carolina Department of Environment & Natural Resources
North Carolina Division of Forest Resources
North Carolina Division of Water Resources
North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission
North Carolina Natural Heritage Program
North Carolina State University Extension
Northwest Power Planning Council
Ocean Club Development Corporation
Odyssey Contemporary Maritime Museum Foundation
Ohio Cooperation Extension Services
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Oregon Department of Forestry
Oregon State Department of Fish and Game
Oregon State Department of Parks
Oregon Wetlands Joint Venture
Oro Loma Sanitary District
Outer Banks Community Foundation
Pacific Educational Resources Director
Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management
Palm Beach County, FL
Peninsula Design and Engineering Inc.
Port of Corpus Christi Authority, TX
Port of Fernandina, FL
Port of Seattle, WA
Port of Umpqua, OR
Potomac River Fisheries Commission
Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources
Puerto Rico Trust
Puget Sound Water Quality Authority, WA
Raymond Dugat Company, TX.
Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council
Rhode Island Department of Transportation
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife
River Ratz, Bass Master's Club
Rutherford High School

Saint Andrew Bay Resource Management Association, FL
Saint Andrew State Recreation Area, FL
Saint Johns River Water Management District, FL
Saint Lucie County, FL
San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, CA
San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Francisco Water Quality Control Board
Sandollar Pavilion Marina, TX.
Santa Barbara Natural History Museum
Sea Oats Garden Club
Sea World
Seaside High School
Sheinberg Associates
Shell Oil Spill Litigation Settlement Trustee Committee
Sonoma Land Trust, CA
South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department
South Florida Water Management
South Florida Water Management District
Southdown Corporation, TX
Southeast AK Guidance Association
Southeast Conference
Southeastern NC Waterman's Association
Southwest Florida Water Management District
Southwest Florida Water Management District
State of Florida
Stilliguamish Tribe, WA
Stilly-Snohomish Fisheries Enhancement Task Force
Suquamish Tribe
Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Program, South FL. Water Mgmt. Dist.
Tampa Bay National Estuary Program
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
Tampa Baywatch
Terrene Institute
Texas Bureau of Economic Geology
Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife
Texas Department of Public Transportation and Highways
Texas General Land Office
Texas Soil and Water Conservation District
Texas State Aquarium
Texas Waterway Operators Association
Textron Marine, Inc. TX.
The Florida Aquarium
The Nature Conservancy
The Student Conservation Association of America
Tidewater Chapters of the American Fisheries Society
Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority
Town of Glen Cove, NY
Town of North Hampton, NH
Town of Pittsford, New York
Trinity Bay SWCD, TX.
Trout Unlimited
University of Alaska Southeast
University of Colorado, Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research
University of Florida
University of Guam, Marine Laboratory
University of Maryland
University of Puerto Rico
University of Rhode Island
University of Tennessee
Village of Key Biscayne

Virginia Committee for Innovative Technology
Virginia Council on the Environment
Virginia Division of Game and Inland Fisheries
Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences
Virginia Marine Resources Commission
Virginia Shoreline Erosion Advisory Services
Volusia County
W.C. Reese Contracting Co.
Warrenton High School
Washington Department of Ecology
Washington Department of Fisheries
Washington State Department of Wildlife
Weyerhaeuser Corporation
Whataburger, Rockport Store, TX.
Wilderness Society
Wisconsin Cooperative Extension Service
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Yale University
Yard Doctor Landscapes
Youth and Adult Volunteer Groups

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